

NOVEMBER 17.

The President, SAMUEL G. DIXON, M.D., in the Chair.

Nineteen persons present.

*The Cause of Inverse Symmetry.*—DR. EDWIN G. CONKLIN remarked that the fact that animals with totally inverse symmetry may occur within the limits of the same species indicates that the cause of this phenomenon must be an ontogenetic rather than a philogenetic one. Furthermore, in all cases in which the development of an inversely symmetrical animal has been studied, the cleavage of the egg is also found to be inverse. He had found that the inverse cleavage of Gasteropods may be traced back to the very first division of the egg, and that this must be preceded by an inverse organization of the unsegmented egg. No inverse organization can be detected in the ovarian eggs of sinistral snails, and it is therefore probable that it arises about the time of the maturation or fertilization of the egg. In dextral snails the polar bodies are formed at what was the free pole of the ovarian egg, and if the polar bodies were to be formed at the opposite or attached pole in sinistral forms it would entirely and satisfactorily explain their inverse symmetry. While such a reversal of the polarity of the egg in sinistral forms has not been demonstrated, certain observations have been made which render it probable.

The subject was discussed by Messrs. Chapman, Pilsbry and Skinner.

Morgan Hebard and Henry W. Fowler were elected members.

Hugo de Vries, of Amsterdam, Eduard Strasburger, of Bonn, and Nestor Grehant, of Paris, were elected correspondents.

The following were accepted for publication: